

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Office action dated September 11, 2007. Claims 1-24 were pending in the application and examined. No claims are amended, canceled or added by this Response. Therefore, claims 1-24 remain pending in the application for further examination. Favorable consideration and early allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1-24 stand rejected either under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ryan (U.S. Patent No. 6,964,501) or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Ryan in view of an additional reference. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Ryan is not a proper reference under 102(e) or 103(a) against the present application because it was filed after Applicant's earliest priority date. Ryan's earliest filing date is December 24, 2002. As acknowledged in the Office Action Summary of September 11, 2007, the present application includes a claim for foreign priority. The Summary further acknowledges that all copies of certified copies of the priority documents have been received. The certified copy of the foreign priority application, IS 6598, is indicated in PAIR as having been received on April 27, 2005. This Icelandic application is in English and has a filing date of October 28, 2002. In view of the perfected claim of priority to the October 28, 2002 filing date of IS 6598, Ryan is not prior art to the present application as it was not filed until December 24, 2002.

The Examiner is, therefore, requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-24.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the requests set forth in the Office action has been addressed and that each of the rejections set forth in the Office action has been overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

Applicant hereby petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for an extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action and includes a fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) with this response for such extension of time.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **08-0750** for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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